Volunteers Extend the Sphere of Influence and Access

- Volunteering is a form of civic engagement through which individuals can make meaningful contributions to their own visions of societal well-being.
- Volunteer labor and philanthropic nonprofit organizations are generally dedicated to filling gaps in service provision that markets do not reach.

Volunteerism in Extension Programs

- Mobilizing and organizing a strong volunteer base is essential to the mission of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, which has the largest volunteer program of any agency in Texas.
- Volunteers are the resources that help expand AgriLife Extension outreach and programming into many Texas communities and neighborhoods.
- Extension volunteers not only improve their own skills in various disciplines, but help others gain knowledge and skills that will benefit them for life.
- Areas where Extension volunteers serve include youth boards, master programs (such as Master Gardener), 4-H and Youth Development, leadership advisory boards, and program area committees and task forces.
- Volunteers are one of Extension’s most valuable assets, allowing us to reach more people, ensuring that our programs are relevant, and interpreting the value of Extension to others.

Value of Volunteer Time Contributed

- In 2010, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service utilized more than 107,000 volunteers across all programming areas.
- These volunteers worked an average of 31 hours annually for a total of more than 3 million hours volunteered; or 1,774 full-time equivalents (FTEs).
- An hourly rate of $21.36 was used to value the time contributed by volunteers.
- Using the hourly rate and the number of hours contributed by Extension volunteers, the value of volunteers was $71 million in 2010.
- The Texas AgriLife Extension Service continues to utilize volunteers to deliver programs that address important issues in the state.

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